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Docket No.: 418268004US  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Smith et al.

Application No.: 10/788,677

Confirmation No.: 3591

Filed: February 27, 2004

Art Unit: 3629

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING  
UNSOLICITED MESSAGES USING  
VARIABLE PRICING AND CONDITIONAL  
REDEMPTION

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Copies of the references (excluding the U.S. patents) on the PTO/SB/08 are provided.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268004US.

Dated: 3/21/05

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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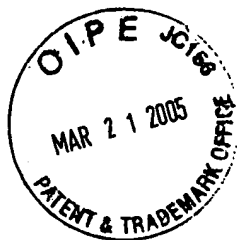
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/788,677-Conf. #3591
				Filing Date	February 27, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Mike D. Smith
				Art Unit	3629
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	418268004US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	6,192,114	02-20-2001	Council	
	AB	2003/0126300	7/3/2003	Pickover et al.	
	AC	6,484,197	11/19/2002	Donohue	
	AD	6,161,130	12/12/2000	Horvitz et al.	
	AE	6,199,102	3/6/2001	Cobb	
	AF	6,112,227	8/29/2000	Heiner	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Gates, Bill, "The Road Ahead," Copyright William H. Gates III, 1995 (pages 173-175)	
	CB	Microsoft Corporation, "The Penny Black Project," Copyright 2003, Microsoft Corporation (2 pages)	
	CC	Kraut, Robert E., et al., "Markets for Attention: Will Postage for Email Help?," CSCW '02, November 16-20, 2002, New Orleans, Louisiana, Copyright 2002 ACM (pages 206-215)	
	CD	Dwork, Cynthia, and Naor, Moni, "Pricing via Processing or Combatting Junk Mail," Crypto '92 (11 pages)	
	CE	Naor, Moni, "Verification of a Human in the Loop or Identification Via the Turing Test," September 13, 1996 (6 pages)	
	CF	Hoffman, Paul and Crocker, Dave, "Unsolicited Bulk Email: Mechanisms for Control," Internet Mail Consortium Report: UBE-SOL, IMCR-008, May 4, 1998 (20 pages)	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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